GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:376
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Pollution in Rivers/Lakes
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for prevention of pollution in rivers, ponds and lakes;

(b) if so, the funds allocated to various agencies for implementation of programmes relating to prevention of pollution in rivers, lakes and ground water all over the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the funds allocated/ sanctioned in this regard have been utilised for the purpose for which it was provided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds meant for prevention of pollution?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d)Pollution abatement of rivers, lakes & ponds is a continuous and ongoing process. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/ concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers, lakes & ponds thereby polluting them. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes. The NGRBA programme along with work of Ganga & its tributaries is with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation from 01/08/2014 onwards. The programmes of NRCP & NGRBA (till 31/07/2014) have so far covered polluted stretches of 43 rivers in 200 towns spread over 21 States at a sanctioned cost of `12202.59 crore and sewage treatment capacity of 5169 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under these two programmes. The details of funds released to various State Governments for implementation of pollution abatement schemes during the last three years under the NRCP/NGRBA, State-wise are at Annexure-I. During the current financial year, no funds have been released to the State Governments so far under the NRCP programme.

The Government has in 2014 also initiated an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission - 'Namami Gange' under the NGRBA programme for consolidating the ongoing efforts & planning for an integrated and comprehensive action plan for pollution abatement and rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries.

For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). To have better synergy and to avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into a new integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA). So far projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States have been sanctioned at a total cost of `1096.09 crores under the NLCP/NPCA, and work of 33 lakes has been completed. Under the NWCP/NPCA, so far an amount of ` 146.94 crore has been released for undertaking various wetland conservation activities. State-wise details of funds released to various State Governments under NPCA during the last three years are at Annexure-II. During the current financial year, no funds have been released to the State Governments so far under the programme.

The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is also implementing the scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies, including ponds and tanks, which aims at improving catchment areas of tanks commands, increase in storage capacity, ground water recharge, improvement in agriculture and increased availability of drinking water.

Funds for implementation of pollution abatement schemes under NRCP & NPCA are released by this Ministry in a phased manner to the concerned States based on progress of work and on receipt of Utilization Certificates as well as Physical and Financial Progress Reports from the States. The reports on physical progress of works as well as Utilization Certificates are examined and unspent balances are taken into account before releasing the next installment of funds. In addition, regular review of progress of implementation of schemes by Central Government/State Government officers, including undertaking site visits, is carried out.